7: Gamble S-5 (1926-1927) 1933 AF12 North China AF12

511 family per year was less than 500 pounds for all the income groups below $70 a month. For the $10 group, the average was only 250 pounds for the families that used any coal, and 125 pounds for the entire group. Not until the family income was over $80 a month, did the families use an average of 1,000 pounds of coal a year; and not until the income was over $90 a month, did they use over 1,000 catties, 1,333 pounds, a year. (Table 32.) The $150 group purchased an average of 3,620 catties, 2.4 tons; the $300 group 6,600 catties, or approximately 4.4 tons.

354 Because of the small amounts of coal used in the lower income groups, it seems evident that few, if any, families with incomes less than $125 a month regularly used foreign-type coal stoves for heating throughout the winter, even though this type of stove is made locally and sells for a relatively low price. The families in the $300 group definitely used coal for a large part of their heating, as all their purchases of coal were made during the winter months. Presumably they burned it in foreign-type stoves. Other income groups purchased some coal every month of the year.

312 A large part of the coal shipped to Peiping comes as coal dust. The coal stores use this in making "coalballs," which are burned by most families living in Peiping. The coal dust is mixed with water and a kind of yellow earth found outside the city walls. This mixture is spread out some two inches thick and then cut into cubes. These are put, a few at a time, into large flat baskets which are tilted back and forth until the cubes are rolled into balls. They are then spread out to dry.

354 Coalball stoves are usually very simple, with a few grate

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bars near the bottom and a small opening in the flat top. Often they are made of baked clay, or metal lined with clay. A five-gallon kerosene tin lined with clay is a popular type of stove with the poorer families. When the coalballs are first ignited, there is considerable gas and smoke, but when well heated they make a clear, hot fire, are usually odorless, and give off little gas and no smoke. Consequently many of the stoves are not connected with any chimney, or flue. Many of them are small enough to be easily portable, and ordinarily are carried out-of-doors when a fresh fire must be made. When fresh fuel is added, a long metal chimney is put on top of the stove for a short time to furnish the necessary extra draft. Food is cooked in a metal dish set over the small round opening in the top of the stove.

During the budget year, the price of coalballs averaged $6.90 per 1,000 catties, or $10.35 a ton. The monthly averages ranged from $7.07 in June to $6.32 in October. In May 1928, six months after the close of our study, the price was down to $5.60 per 1,000 catties. It was $6.10 in January, 1929, and this was the average for that year.[6] In 1931 the price was $4.50 per 1,000 catties. In 1900 the average price was $5.08. Ten years later it was $4.97, but then there was a steady decline until in 1917 it was only $3.43 per 1,000 catties. By 1924 the price was again up to $4.99.[7] Extra taxes, the difficulties of the railroads, the disturbed political conditions, all are reflected in the high prices of 1927.

Before 1926, the prices are taken from the account books of a single store. After 1927, they are based on quotations secured from six different stores. Their prices

[6] No. 11. [7] No. 30.

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the average amount bought during the year varied from 80 to 100 catties. For only six groups was it over 100 catties.

Wood used as kindling appeared on the accounts of 252 families. The income group averages per family reporting varied from 72 cents to $11.65 per year. For only two groups, was the amount less than $1; and for only four was it over $6 a year. The price of wood being $1.30 per 100 catties, the lower income groups must have kindled their fires with great care, or found and carried home considerable amounts of wood. One investigator stated that it required about one-half catty of wood to light a coalball stove. Some families use charcoal, in which case a smaller amount is needed.

Light

The average expenditure for light for the year ranged from $2.05 for the $5 group, to $60.25 for the $300 group. It took from 2.1 to 1.3 per cent of the family income and, on the average, was only a little less than one-fifth of the combined expenditure for heat, light and water. Kerosene was the chief source of light for the poorer families, and was used to some extent by almost all the families. Electricity was used by about one-third of the larger income families. The cost of light per *chien* ranged from $1.55 to $8.25 per year; but, except for the highest and lowest income groups, the amount tended to be between $3.25 and $3.80 per *chien*. The use of electricity by the higher income groups did not seem to affect this tendency. The annual per capita expenditure

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MAKING COALBALLS

A mixture of coal dust and yellow earth, cubed, rolled into balls in a swinging basket, and dried, is used for fuel by almost every family in Peiping.

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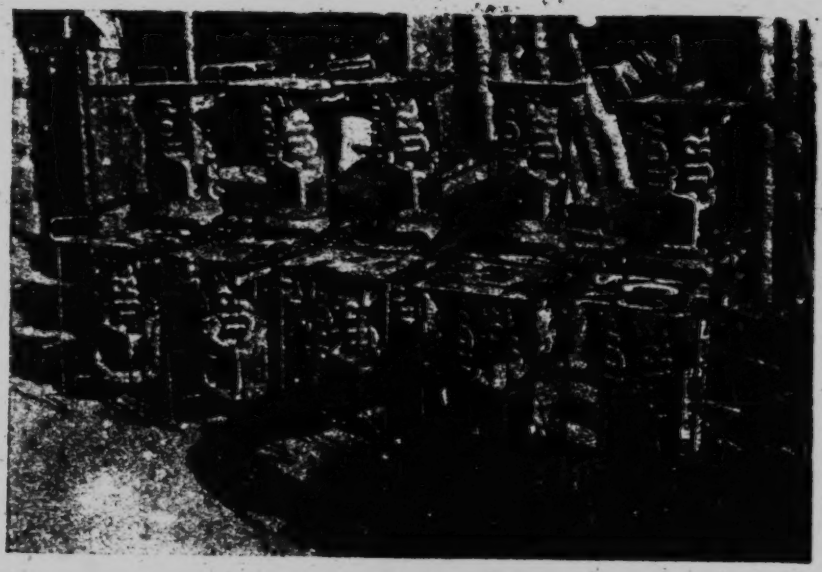

COALBALL STOVES

Often made from clay, or clay-lined kerosene tins; these are made from old cough-cure advertisements.

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7: Gamble S-5 (1926-1927) 1933 AF12 North China AF12

house; the $80 group a little over three lights for 4.8 *chien;* and the $300 group nearly six lights for a house with 7.3 *chien.*

One hundred and twenty-eight families reported some expenditure for candles, but usually only a small amount. Even for the families purchasing candles, none of the income groups had an average expenditure of $1 a year per family. For half the groups, the average was less than 25 cents per family. These figures, however, do not include the candles purchased by 26 families for use in connection with religious observances. They are included as expenditure for religion. The Chinese terms for the two kinds of candles are quite distinct. The ordinary candle is called *yang la,* or foreign candle, the other *kung la,* or offering candle.

Matches were entered on all but six of the accounts. The amounts were naturally small. The average retail price in Shanghai was 5.2 cents for a package of ten boxes of safety matches.[16] The Peiping price was probably only slightly higher. Fifty-seven families spent less than 10 cents for matches during the year. Only 30 spent more than 50 cents, and three more than $1. The average per family was 12 cents for the $5 group; 28 cents for the $25 group; 40 cents for the $60 group; and 70 cents for the $200 group. This last was the largest of the income group averages. Many families also probably secured matches from the rag-pickers, who go from door to door collecting rags and old cloth, and give in exchange small boxes of matches.

[16] No. 9.

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

who fail to observe the rules of order and cleanliness. The rewards vary from one to five dollars, while the fines, only from 5 to 30 cents. The fines are not collected by the factory but are reserved for buying, at a later date, things that are needed in the rooms on which fines have been imposed. This system of rewards and fines is said to have worked quite satisfactorily. And our investigation well supports this view, for during the stay of the investigator in the factory, always he found the rooms well kept. 362 356 466

Workers having families are not provided with free lodging by the factory. As workmen who brought families to Tangku have greatly increased in recent years, the factory bought in 1926 35 rooms which have been let out to them on very reasonable terms. Again, in the summer of 1927, a group of new houses of about 33 rooms was built by the factory for the accommodation of workers' families. Some more new houses, it is said, will be put up with a view to forming in the future a Chiu Ta Community in Tangku. The factory charges only 50 to 80 cents per room as monthly rent which is barely enough for its annual repairing. Such expenses as building a doorway or walls are borne by the factory. 362 466

Water Supply.—There has never been any fresh water-supply at Tangku. Fresh water is brought over from a long distance and at a high price. It was the Chiu Ta Factory that first opened two artesian wells and furnished cold and boiled water to its resident workers. In 1927, when the price of fresh water soared up, the use of the well water was also granted to the workers who had families with them. The quantity of water each family may consume is limited according to its size. 365 466

Fuel and Light.—The resident workers are provided with electric light and heating, free of charge. Workers having families are denied this benefit, but wood shavings in the factory are distributed to them free. Again, in the east section coal dust is sold to the workers having families at 25 cents per 100 catties, while in the west section it is simply thrown away, so that those who want it may pick the same up. 354 466

8: Lin E-5 (1927)1928 AF12 North China AF12

354 644 The factory authorities have contemplated to install electric lights for the workers' families, but as the houses are widely scattered, the work has not yet been carried out.[1]

644 262 Food and Meal Ticket.—The Chiu Ta workers were formerly provided with meals by the factory free of charge, but they were later commuted as a part of their wages. As a result, most of the workers began to cook their own food. In 1923, when the dormitory was completed, it was provided with a dining hall in which steamed bread and other cooked food were sold to the workers at cost. And the workers were then prohibited to cook food in their own rooms.

As the east section is far away from the main dining hall there is a separate building in which a toilet room, a locker room, a small kitchen and a small dining room are provided for the use of the workers.

The worker's diet consists of the following: wheat bread, corn bread, millet porridge, doughnuts and salted vegetables. The price of bread is always fixed at two cents each, the weight varying according to the market price of flour. Every day, the weight of the bread is shown on a sign board and it may be weighed by any one who likes to do so with a balance in the dining room. Bread of insufficient weight may be changed at once. During the festivals and the three days before the New Year, dumplings with sugar and meat contents are sold at the same price as that of the plain bread, and special foods are also prepared for sale.

To facilitate purchases at the dining room, meal tickets are issued. Workers may secure them in advance at the superviser's office to buy their food. The total value of tickets issued to one worker in a month should not exceed $6, and this amount is to be deducted from his wage at the end of each month. In recent years, these tickets are even used to pay fines, rent, and other miscellaneous expenses. This has greatly facilitated the miscellaneous transactions and reduced the use of money.

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[1] Our latest information is that the workers' houses have now all been installed with electric light.